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GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

UK-Irish Talks

Talks between Britain's Prime Minister and the Taoiseach of the Irish Republic, held in London, have covered bilateral issues, including Northern Ireland, as well as European Community matters and current international problems.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, had discussions on 21 May with the Taoiseach, Mr Charles Haughey, who was accompanied by the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Lenihan. Britain's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Carrington, and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Humphrey Atkins, were also present.

The communiqué issued after the talks noted that the two leaders had agreed that they wished to develop new and closer political co-operation between their two Governments. They also agreed to hold regular meetings, on a continuing basis, accompanied by other ministers as appropriate.

Northern Ireland

On Northern Ireland, the communiqué noted that there had been 'a useful and constructive exchange of views about the prospects for political progress'. While agreeing with Mrs Thatcher that 'any change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland', Mr Haughey reaffirmed that 'it is the wish of the Irish Government to secure the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace'. The two leaders recorded agreement on the importance they attached to 'the unique relationship between the peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Republic' and on the need to further this relationship in the interest of peace and reconciliation. They noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by the two Governments, both separately and in co-operation, in the field of security.

Civil Service

The Prime Minister has announced the Government's plans to reduce the number of civil servants from 705,000 to 630,000 – a reduction of 75,000 – over the next four years. Since taking office, the Government has already reduced the numbers by 27,000. The cuts are being made in the interests both of economy and efficiency.[1]

In a statement in the House of Commons on 13 May (*Hansard*, Vol 984, No 173, cols 1050–61), the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said that the Government had been reviewing the efficiency of the Civil Service in the light of experience gained in the first year of office. The work of the Civil Service divided broadly into two areas: first, the formulation of policy and the direct support for Ministers in Parliament; and second – the area in which the great majority of civil servants were engaged – the carrying out of the executive tasks that flowed from the Government's policies.

Previous governments had progressively increased the number of tasks that the Civil Service was asked to do, without paying sufficient attention to the need for economy and efficiency. As a result staff numbers had grown. The present Government was committed both to a reduction in tasks and to better management. The studies already carried out by departments had clearly shown the scope for this. All ministers in charge of departments would now work out detailed plans for concentrating on essential functions and making operations simpler and more efficient in their departments.

When the Government took office in May 1979 the size of the Civil Service was 732,000. This had now been reduced to 705,000 and would be further reduced to 630,000 over the next four years. The reductions would include all levels of the Civil Service and no departments would be exempt, although there would be areas in particular departments – for example, the prison service – where no reductions at all would be expected.

The Prime Minister recognised that contracting the size of government always caused staff both fears of insecurity and anxiety lest important work should suffer, but the Government was allowing time to produce the best possible plans, to take account of the legitimate interests of the staff and to encourage them to involve themselves in draw-

[1] In reply to a question in the House of Commons on 2 June (*Hansard*, Vol 985, No 183, col 505), the Minister of State at the Civil Service Department said that the proposed cuts in manpower would save some £500 million in the annual cost of wages and salaries.

ing up proposals for reform. Each year about 80,000 people left the Civil Service on retirement or resignation. It should, therefore, be possible to accommodate a reduction of 75,000, spread over four years, without significant compulsory redundancy. The Government would of course be consulting the Civil Service unions about implementing its plans.

Replying to a question, the Prime Minister confirmed that grading within the Civil Service was being examined. Some people believed that the chain of command was too long; a review was under way, but would take time to reach its conclusions.

Mrs Thatcher said that it was her experience that the Civil Service staff wanted to work in and for an efficient organisation. She had been particularly impressed by the quality and enthusiasm of the young people she had met in the Service.

It was the Government's job to ensure that the structure of the Service, its working methods and the rewards that it offered for success encouraged the right kinds of talent, gave it scope for personal initiative, and offered conditions that promoted loyalty and commitment. The Prime Minister believed that the great majority of civil servants would welcome the changes that she had described.

Royal Commission on Legal Services in Scotland

Major changes in the scope and provision of legal aid and in the right to undertake conveyancing, and the setting up of a new Department of Legal Affairs under a senior minister are recommended by the Royal Commission on Legal Services in Scotland in its report published on 7 May.[1]

The Commission's broad conclusion is that the legal profession has, in large measure, served Scotland well over the years, but there are many areas for improvement in the provision of legal services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the Commission's main recommendations are summarised below.

Improving Access to Legal Services

Advertising by Solicitors

Solicitors should be allowed to advertise their services and the prices they charge under appropriate supervision of the Law Society of Scotland.

Generalist Advice Centres and Law Centres

Improved access to legal services should be promoted by the development of generalist advice centres such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux which are able to provide a simple introduction to the range of legal services available. The proposed new Legal Services Commission (see below) should experiment with the best use of law centres in Scotland and should provide financial assistance to legal firms to help them establish offices in under-provided areas of the country.

Legal Aid

The present schemes of legal advice and assistance and civil legal aid should be replaced by a new integrated civil legal aid scheme administered not by the Law Society but by the Legal Services Commission. Civil legal aid should only be available to help citizens assert or protect their rights and not to assist them in arranging their affairs for the benefit of themselves or others. In the majority of cases solicitors themselves should be able to grant civil legal aid (instead of referring applications to a committee of the Law Society), a practice which could save up to £1 million a year in administrative costs.

A new approach to criminal legal aid is also proposed. All accused people, whether or not in custody, would be entitled to initial advice on how to plead and, where appropriate, for pleas in mitigation. Accused people in receipt of criminal legal aid who are tried and found guilty should be liable to contribute to the cost of their defence. Public funds should be made available for regular legal clinics in prisons. An experiment should be carried out to assess the merits of a separate public defender service to run parallel with the criminal legal aid system.

Improving the Provision of Legal Services

Conveyancing

Domestic conveyancing should no longer be restricted exclusively to the legal profession. Members of other appropriate professional bodies who meet certain prescribed standards should be allowed to do conveyancing work for a fee. After the introduction of the system of registration of title throughout Scotland, the possibility of a simpler conveyancing system provided by the State at low cost should be examined.

Divorce

Divorce actions should be heard in the sheriff court and not, as at present, in the Court of Session.[1] Defended divorces should be heard in private and not in open court; in undefended divorces the court should be able to proceed on written forms completed by those seeking divorce, and full legal aid should not be granted. Parliament should review the grounds for divorce based on separation, and should consider whether a two-year period of separation, with or without the consent of both parties, should establish evidence of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

[1] *Report of the Royal Commission on Legal Services in Scotland*: Vol I: Report, Cmnd 7846, HMSO, £8·50, ISBN 0 10 178460 0; Vol II: Appendices, Cmnd 7846-1, HMSO, £12·50, ISBN 0 10 178461 9. The Commission, chaired by Lord Hughes, a former minister of state at the Scottish Office, was set up in 1976. For its terms of reference, see p 100, 1976. A corresponding Royal Commission for the rest of the United Kingdom reported in October 1979 (see pp 307-9, 1979). The two commissions were entirely independent.

[1] The sheriff court, in addition to being the local court which tries criminal cases too serious for the district court, is a civil court with a wide jurisdiction; the Court of Session is the highest civil court in Scotland, although there is in certain circumstances a right of appeal to the House of Lords.

Small Claims

There should be a small claims procedure within the sheriff court which is sufficiently simple, cheap, quick and informal to encourage individual litigants to use it themselves without legal representation.

The Courts

Major reviews of civil court procedure and of the working methods of both the civil and criminal courts are recommended. Higher priority should be given to improving court buildings.

The Providers of Legal Services

Education of Lawyers

Universities should use wider criteria than academic attainment at school when selecting law students; in the longer term, there should be a four-year honours degree in law followed by a postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice and a period of apprenticeship for all prospective lawyers. (At present a law degree takes three years and is followed by a term of apprenticeship.) Many recommendations are made to ensure that trainees are seen to be competent before being admitted as solicitors or advocates.

Complaints against Lawyers

The Law Society and the Faculty of Advocates should issue rules of professional conduct. New complaints procedures are proposed, with greater participation by laymen, so that more effective disciplinary action can be taken where appropriate. In complaints against solicitors, the Lay Observer's powers[1] should be strengthened to enable him, if necessary, to take cases himself before the Scottish Solicitors Discipline Tribunal. The Tribunal should also have power to award a client compensation up to a maximum of, say, £500 or £1,000.

Lawyers' Fees

Lawyers' fees should be calculated from a record of time spent on a client's case. This would ensure fairness and encourage competition and efficiency. In the short term scale fees should be retained, but should not be mandatory; they should instead prescribe maximum charges. A new independent legal fees body should be appointed to promulgate any pre-fixed fees which should be set as maxima. This body should take over from the judges of the Court of Session the duty of fixing court fees, and its consent should be needed for any scale fees recommended by the Law Society.

Central Oversight of Services

The establishment of a Department of Legal Affairs responsible for all Scottish legal affairs, except for the Lord Advocate's functions of providing legal advice to the Government and of prosecuting crime, is proposed. The new department would be the responsibility of a senior minister who would have no other departmental responsibilities.

Other recommendations include the appointment of a Legal Services Advisory Committee responsible for advising the Minister for Legal Affairs on the provision of legal services in Scotland, and the establishment of a small Legal Services Commission with a range of executive functions for publicly funded legal services, including the administration of legal aid, the disbursement of public funds to advice agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux, and the improvement of public information on legal services.

[1]The Lay Observer's function is to examine allegations made by members of the public about the Law Society's treatment of complaints against solicitors or their staff. (There is a separate Lay Observer in England and Wales.)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

European Community

Britain has accepted the provisional agreement on its contribution to the European Community's budget reached at a Council of Ministers meeting attended by European foreign ministers in Brussels on 29 and 30 May. It has also accepted the proposals on farm prices and for a Community sheepmeat regime agreed at a meeting of Community agricultural ministers.

Budgetary Proposals

The main points of the budgetary proposals, which have also been accepted by the other members of the Community, are as follows:

1 Provided that its net contributions do not exceed the figures estimated by the European Commission, there will be ceilings on Britain's contribution of £370 million[1] in 1980 and £440 million in 1981. This will involve rebates of £710 million and £860 million respectively, making a two-year total of £1,570 million.

2 Should Britain's uncorrected net contributions for these years exceed the Commission's estimates, the difference will be shared. In 1980, Britain will bear a quarter of the excess, and its partners the other 75 per cent. In 1981 Britain will meet all the first £12 million of excess; will share the next £60 million on a 50-50 basis with its Community partners; and any further excess will be divided in the same proportions as that for 1980.

3 It is envisaged that by 1982 the Council will have completed a review of the pattern of Community expenditure and the operation of the budget with a view to resolving the problem by means of 'structural change'. The review will concern the development of Community policies, without calling into question the common financial responsibility for the policies, which are financed from the Community's own resources (see p 72), or the basic principles of the Common Agricultural Policy. Its aim will be 'to prevent the recurrence of unacceptable situations' for any Community member. However, if this is not achieved by 1982, then 'the Commission will make proposals along the lines of the 1980-81 solution and the Council will act accordingly'. That is, there will be similar restrictions on the level of Britain's contribution in 1982 as provided for in 1980 and 1981.

[1]The figures are converted at a rate of 1·65 European units of account to £1 sterling.

4 The payments of the rebates will be made under an amended version of the 1975 financial mechanism (see p 72) (bringing Britain's gross contribution more or less into line with its share of Community gross national product), and a special regulation governing extra Community expenditure in Britain. Following the precedent of the financial mechanism, the credits for this expenditure will appear in the budget for the following year, but with the possibility of advance payments in the current year. (The British Government expects the bulk of the 1980 repayments to be paid before the end of Britain's 1980-81 financial year, that is by April 1981.)

Foreign Secretary's Statement

The British Government's acceptance of the proposals was announced by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Carrington, in a statement in the House of Lords on 2 June (*Hansard* (*HL*), Vol 409, No 136, cols 1126-38). In the long term, Lord Carrington said, the most important part of the proposals was the Council's commitment to review the development of Community policies and the operation of the budget. This, together with the restraints imposed on Community expenditure by the 1 per cent value added tax ceiling,[1] would enable Britain to press for lasting reforms which, among other things, would resolve the British budgetary problem. The review offered an opportunity for Britain to work with its partners for financial arrangements and Community policies which would be 'to the advantage and interest of all member states as befits a Community of equals'.

Referring to Britain's rejection of the solution to its budgetary problem proposed at Luxembourg in April (see p 150), Lord Carrington said that the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, had made clear that this was because the combination of amount and duration had not been right. The Government had now negotiated better arrangements for the two years 1980 and 1981 taken together than were on offer in April, and had also secured an arrangement for the third year, 1982, which had then been refused to it. Furthermore, the Community had recognised that there would have to be a major review of the operation of the budget and the balance of Community expenditure.

[1]The Community budget is largely financed by an 'own resources' system based on levies on agricultural imports and customs duties supplemented by a proportion not exceeding 1 per cent of the proceeds of the value added tax collected on a harmonised basis.

The Luxembourg proposals, the Foreign Secretary continued, had also been refused because Britain had been asked to accept arrangements outside the issue of the budget – on sheepmeat, farm prices and related measures – which would have been damaging to it. Since then, Britain had secured changes in the suggested arrangements (see below), and, taking the balance of the proposals together, the Government believed that they added up 'to a fair and advantageous outcome'. With this arrangement, Britain could now play its part in developing further the internal and external policies of the Community. The negotiations had, moreover, focused the minds of all member states on the unsatisfactory way in which the Community budget operated and, there was now an unrivalled opportunity to bring about sensible adjustments to the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy and to put the Community's finances on a sounder basis than ever before.

Agriculture

On 30 May the Council of Ministers reached agreement on an agricultural package on the understanding that this agreement – which covers common prices and related measures and sheepmeat – would be automatically confirmed once agreement on the budget was reached. The main features of the agreement on prices included increases averaging 5 per cent with somewhat lower increases for certain products in surplus, particularly milk, the price of which will rise by 4 per cent (2·5 per cent for butter and 5·3 per cent for skimmed-milk powder); fixing the co-responsibility levy in the dairy sector at 2 per cent, this to be reduced by 0·5 per cent in certain exceptional cases; and the retention of the existing quotas for sugar for a further year. On sheepmeat, the Council agreed on the introduction of arrangements for a common organisation of the market which will enter into force as soon as the Community has negotiated terms of access for third country suppliers, principally New Zealand.

Reporting the agreement to the House of Commons on 2 June (*Hansard*, Vol 985, No 182, cols 1058-76), the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Peter Walker, said that the price settlement, for only the second time, gave Britain a net benefit. Before the budget adjustment now negotiated, this amounted to some £37 million. In addition, the retention of the butter subsidy (see below) was worth £108 million to British consumers.

Agricultural Prices and Related Measures

With regard to the agreements on agricultural prices and related measures, Mr Walker told the House that the Government had pressed for and secured important modifications to the Commission's original proposals, and in so doing had removed elements which would have severely discriminated against Britain, and secured a number of measures from which it would derive substantial benefits. These included the continuation for the next year of the special butter subsidy which, worth 13 pence on a pound of butter and financed entirely from Community funds, had originally been excluded from the Commission's proposals; and success in obtaining, after five years of failure, substantial refunds on cereals used in whisky which, backdated to Britain's accession, would give Britain a net benefit of £40 million in the current year and approximately £16 million annually thereafter.

With regard to the prices of products in surplus, Mr Walker continued, Britain had argued against any increases. On sugar, however, the world price had now gone well ahead of the European price and therefore there would be no cost of disposing of Europe's sugar surplus at present. Britain's sugar quota would remain the same as last year. As for milk, Mr Walker explained that the price increase would be offset by an increase in the co-responsibility levy so that the net increase in milk prices would be 2·5 per cent. This would not affect the liquid milk sales in Britain. During the marketing years 1979-80 and 1980-81 the average increase in the price of milk in the Community, net of the co-responsibility levy, would be 1·25 per cent per annum and this, compared with the substantial increase in input costs of dairy producers, would result in a substantial reduction in real terms of the income of dairy producers throughout the Community. The total effect of the whole of the package on the consumer, Mr Walker added, would be an increase of 0·7 per cent on the food price index and of 0·15 per cent on the retail price index over a full year.

Turning to related measures, Mr Walker said that Britain would also benefit from a new suckler cow subsidy, worth about £12 a cow and financed entirely by the Community. The proposal to limit the subsidy to smaller herds only had been successfully avoided. Britain had also managed to retain in the package, contrary to the original intention, the right to continue the variable beef premium scheme. Since Britain provided 26 per cent of the specialist beef herd in the Community these measures would be of net benefit to it. In addition, the Council had agreed to an early consideration of structural proposals in favour of the agriculture of Northern Ireland.

Sheepmeat

At the European Council in Luxembourg, Mr Walker said, the other eight Community countries had agreed upon a sheepmeat regime based upon intervention throughout the Community, but Britain had rejected this since it would have been bad for the British consumer, for the British producer and for New Zealand. The new agreement, however, provides that there will be no intervention in Britain and, where such arrangements operate, that there will be no incentive for any British lamb to go into intervention in France or any other part of the Community. Thus the Community had agreed to provide Britain with a full deficiency payment system financed entirely from Community funds. As a result British lamb would tend to stay in Britain to be eaten by the British consumer at reasonable prices instead of being sucked into intervention overseas as would have happened under the Commission's Luxembourg proposals. At the same time, British producers would obtain a 17 per cent improvement in their guaranteed

prices this year and would be able to look forward to a secure future as the Community guaranteed price converged to a common price. These improved producers' returns would be financed entirely by the Community. On completion of the first four years of the scheme, Mr Walker anticipated that Britain would receive an annual benefit from the Community of about £100 million.

Turning to New Zealand's interests in this question, Mr Walker said that it was vital to defend these, and the whole regime would take effect only if and when New Zealand reached a satisfactory agreement on the volume of its imports into the Community in exchange for a reduction in the tariff. The Commission had agreed that this agreement should and must include a New Zealand agreement on the possible use of any export refunds. The fact that Britain, which produced half the lamb of Europe, would now have no lamb going into intervention meant that, unlike the Commission's original proposals and those agreed by the other eight member states in Luxembourg, there would be little intervention in the Community. Throughout the negotiations, Mr Walker added, he had kept in close touch with the New Zealand Government and would continue to do so until its negotiations were satisfactorily completed.

Fisheries

The Community's foreign ministers also agreed to a statement of general principles on fisheries which left the substantial issues open for consideration on their merits in the fisheries council, and fixed a deadline of 31 December 1980 for agreement on a revised common fisheries policy. Reporting this to the House of Lords in his statement of 2 June Lord Carrington said that the deadline was in Britain's interest, the British Government having repeatedly urged rapid progress towards a satisfactory common fisheries policy settlement. It welcomed the fact that the fisheries text recognised the need for this, and for a settlement of all the outstanding elements of the common fisheries policy together. The text in no way prejudiced the vital interests of Britain's fishermen which the Government was determined to safeguard.

Opposition Views

Speaking in the House of Commons on 2 June, after a statement by the Lord Privy Seal, Sir Ian Gilmour, on the conclusions of the foreign ministers meeting (*Hansard*, Vol 985, No 182, cols 1043-57), the official Opposition's spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Peter Shore, said that, under the proposed arrangements, Britain would still be the second largest net contributor to the Community. He suggested that the settlement – which he said would raise food prices, pose a threat to New Zealand's lamb trade, and raise further the cost and the food surpluses of the Common Agricultural Policy while offering only a partial and temporary relief to Britain's budgetary contribution – would be unacceptable to the British people. He asked the Government to justify the retreat from its objective of securing a broad balance in Britain's contributions, and cast doubt on a long-term solution arising out of the agreed review since this would not call into question the basic principles of the Common Agricultural Policy or the own resources financing system.

Commenting on Mr Walker's statement (see p 183) the official Opposition spokesman on agriculture, Mr Roy Mason, said that agricultural policy had become a trade-off in the budget deal. The proposed package represented a bad deal for the British consumer. In this context he pointed to the proposed price increases and the increase in Community agricultural expenditure, and predicted that within a year 'there will be a sheepmeat mountain of about 30,000 to 35,000 tonnes'. He also criticised the Government for failing to make a start on reforming the Common Agricultural Policy.

Iran

The decision of the members of the European Community in April to impose economic sanctions on Iran if, by 17 May, there had been no 'decisive progress' towards the release of the United States hostages held there since November 1979 (see p 151), was confirmed by Community foreign ministers at their meeting in Naples on 17 and 18 May. Following the passage of the Iran (Temporary Provisions) Act 1980 (see p 152), British sanctions measures were introduced on 30 May; they are not retrospective.

Naples Meeting

In a statement issued at the end of the Naples meeting, Community foreign ministers, while noting that there were a number of developments which could be important for the release of the hostages (in particular, the completion of the second round of parliamentary elections and the forthcoming convening of the Iranian Parliament[1], recognised that 'no decisive progress' leading to their release had been made. Consequently they decided immediately 'to apply the measures provided for in the [United Nations] Security Council draft resolution of 10 January', and, in particular, agreed that all contracts concluded after 4 November 1979 (the date of the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran) would be affected by these measures.

Pointing out that the sole purpose of the measures was 'to hasten the release of the hostages', the ministers reaffirmed their intention 'to respect the independence of Iran and the right of the Iranian people to determine their own future'. They also expressed 'great satisfaction' at the decision of the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, to entrust to Mr Adib Daoudi, a member of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry (see p 154), the task of entering into contact with the Iranian Government in order

[1]The Parliament opened on 28 May.

to enable the Commission to resume its work and to secure the resolution of the crisis. The ministers fully supported the Secretary-General and undertook to remain in constant touch with him in order to establish whether the progress of the mission was such as to enable them rapidly to suspend the measures taken in respect of Iran.

Statements by Lord Carrington

Informing the House of Lords on 19 May about the outcome of the Naples meeting (*Hansard* (*HL*), Vol 409, No 131, cols 551-9), the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Carrington, said that the necessary orders implementing sanctions would be drawn up and that it was the Government's intention to act simultaneously with Britain's partners 'on the basis of legal instruments co-ordinated to achieve parallel effect'. Noting that Parliament would have the opportunity to debate the orders once they had been laid before it, under either the Iran (Temporary Powers) Act 1980 or the Import, Export and Customs (Defence) Act 1939, Lord Carrington said that any such order would lapse unless approved by Parliament within 28 sitting days. On the question of existing contracts the Foreign Secretary said that those for the export of goods to Iran entered into after 4 November 1979 would be affected by the sanctions.

On 20 May Lord Carrington made a further statement to the House of Lords (*Hansard* (*HL*), Vol 409, No 132, cols 765-72) explaining that, because of very strong opposition in Parliament to any element of retroactivity, sanctions by Britain would not be retrospective. No orders, therefore, would be laid banning the supply of goods 'under arrangements assumed before the date on which those orders were laid'. Britain had informed its Community partners and the United States that it was no longer prepared 'to proceed to apply any element of retrospection' among the decisions agreed at Naples. Arrangements banning the supply of arms would continue in force.

Lord Carrington said that Britain had all along sought to assure the United States Government of its support over efforts to secure the release of the hostages. This remained the Government's position although it had to take account of the feelings of Parliament concerning the precise measures adopted for this purpose.

Sanctions Orders

On 30 May two orders came into effect imposing sanctions on trade with Iran. The Export of Goods (Control) (Iran Sanctions) Order 1980, made under the 1939 Act, prohibits the export of embargoed goods from Britain for delivery to a person in Iran. All goods are embargoed with the exception of specified foodstuffs, medical products, and other specified products if sold or supplied for medical or surgical purposes. Also exempted from the provisions of the Order are goods exported under a contract made before 30 May 1980, ships and aircraft on scheduled journeys or exported after temporary importation, and goods licensed under the Order.

The Iran (Trading Sanctions) Order 1980, made under the Iran (Temporary Powers) Act 1980, prohibits the making or performance of contracts for the sale, supply or transport of embargoed goods from Britain, or from any territory to which the Order extends, to Iran. Contracts made before 30 May are excluded from these restrictions, as are new contracts for sale or supply made in continuation of an established course of business dealing between the same parties, relating to goods of the same or similar class, and which existed before 30 May.

Both orders were approved by the House of Commons on 4 June and by the House of Lords on 9 June.

Commonwealth Development Corporation

The annual report[1] of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), published in May, shows that the Corporation's new commitment in productive enterprises in developing countries totalled £82·7 million in 1979, compared with £59·2 million in the previous year, bringing its total investment commitment at the end of the year to over £449 million. This was spread over some 230 projects in more than 40 countries. Of the total committed, £155·1 million was for basic development, including power and water, housing finance and transport; £214·2 million for primary processing and production; and £80 million for industry and commerce. The CDC's investments by region are shown in the table **(see p 186).**

The CDC is a statutory body, established in 1948, whose main source of funds is exchequer advances, which are allocated from the aid programme. Since 1969 it has been empowered to operate in non-Commonwealth as well as Commonwealth countries. (At the end of 1979 it had investments in nine non-Commonwealth countries and had ministerial authority to invest in another six.) The CDC invests in the development of resources, material and human, choosing its projects principally for their development value to the country concerned. At the same time, it operates on commercial lines so as to provide a reasonable rate of return on the money invested, and is required to pay its way taking one year with another. (Since 1955, about one-third of its investments have been financed from self-generated surpluses.) Its operations are undertaken only with the full consent of the host countries and are complementary to official aid programmes, private sector investment and international measures aimed at improving the terms of trade of the developing countries.

[1] *Commonwealth Development Corporation: Report and Accounts 1979*. HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 903799 12 X.

Investment Strategy

The CDC's investment strategy is directed towards helping the poorest groups in the poorer countries to earn by their own efforts the means for providing not only for their basic human needs, but also a surplus with which to stimulate economic growth through their own effective demand. In 1979 nearly 90 per cent of new commitments went to the poorer countries. The largest of these was a £12 million loan for an industrial rubber plantation project in Cameroon, this country also receiving a £6·76 million investment in a water supply project. Smallholder agriculture was again a major focus of the Corporation's new commitments, these including £7 million for oil palm development in Liberia, £7·2 million for coffee growing in Kenya and £1·5 million for banana cultivation in Belize. Other new commitments included £5·7 million for forestry development in Jamaica, £6 million for cobalt production in Zambia, and £5 million for a development finance concern in the Philippines. The last was the CDC's first investment in that country.

The CDC also acts as a catalyst for others prepared to invest in developing countries, and its investments are often associated with capital from many other sources including the private sector, international aid agencies, bilateral agencies of other countries and local interests. At the end of 1979 long-term capital invested in projects in which the CDC was participating was estimated to be some £2,200 million, a substantial proportion of which had been introduced by the Corporation. The CDC offers prospective private enterprise partners specialist, technical and general advice on setting up enterprises overseas and on the particular conditions for investment in the developing countries in which it operates.

Recognising that the most important resource of developing countries is their people, the CDC regards manpower training as vital for development. To this end, CDC-managed projects give priority to training nationals of host countries for technical, professional and management posts up to top levels. A great deal of training is given on the job, but arrangements are also made for external courses where these are merited. Where specialised training in agricultural management is required, the CDC's own management centre in Swaziland teaches essential skills to agriculturists and others involved at middle and senior levels in the planning, control and management of projects. Since the centre was started in 1973, it has provided training for over 500 managers from 35 countries, many of whom are now in positions of high responsibility.

CDC Investments and Outstanding Commitments by Region at end-1979

£ thousand

Region	Invested	Outstanding Commitment
Caribbean	49,964	11,761
East Asia and Pacific Islands	82,326	18,987
East Africa	53,912	30,471
Central Africa	64,022	14,905
Southern Africa	41,937	16,149
West Africa	19,631	43,915
Other Areas	1,351	—
Total	313,143	136,188

[For background information, see COI reference document *The Commonwealth Development Corporation*, SN6047/78.]

Conservation in the Antarctic

A Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was agreed by Britain and 14 other countries[1] in Canberra, Australia, on 20 May. The Convention will enter into force after eight of these countries have ratified, accepted or approved it.

The agreement on the Convention follows concern by the Antarctic Treaty Powers, aware that krill and fish resources in the area were beginning to be exploited by some of their members, to ensure the conservation and rational use of these and other live marine resources. In 1977, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in London (see 1977, pp 417-19) recommended the holding of negotiating meetings to work out a 'definitive regime' for the conservation of Antarctic marine life and to ensure that any possible utilisation of these resources would be conducted with proper regard to the Antarctic marine ecological system as a whole. The Convention signed in Canberra was the result of six such meetings. The 1977 Consultative Meeting also agreed upon interim arrangements to safeguard such resources until a 'definitive regime' came into effect.

The Convention

The Convention contains several important and novel features:

(a) It takes as its limits the Antarctic convergence – the northern boundary of the cold Antarctic waters – thus including within its scope the entire Antarctic marine ecological system.

(b) It sets out to conserve the Antarctic marine living resources within the context of the Antarctic marine ecological system as a whole (not simply a particular species or group of species). The system is defined as 'the complex of relationships of Antarctic marine living resources with each other and with their physical environment'.

(c) Because the decision to achieve such an agreement began in the Antarctic Treaty forum, the parties to the Convention will include both countries that are engaged in exploiting the resources and countries that are not so engaged.

[1]The other countries were Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, the Soviet Union and the United States. All these countries, like Britain, are signatories to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty (see 1977, pp 418-19).

It also makes provision for the adherence of any country which is interested in research or harvesting activities related to the living resources of the Antarctic seas.

(d) It contains a provision for the regulation of the fishing effort employed – thus opening the way for consideration of forecasted levels of fishing in the future based on information regarding investment plans.

(e) It requires that data be published on the catch and fishing effort, on the status of and changes in populations and on factors affecting the distribution, abundance and productivity of harvested species and dependent or related species or populations.

(f) It requires that regard should be given to the restoration of depleted species, and that co-operative working relationships should be sought with, among others, the International Whaling Commission.

The Convention also provides for the establishment of a Commission which, among other things, will ensure the collection of relevant information and, on the basis of this, formulate, adopt and revise the conservation measures required. It will also be responsible for a system of observation and inspection to be established in support of these measures. In its tasks, it will be assisted by a scientific committee. The Commission's membership will comprise representatives of the states which took part in the Canberra meeting and of others which later accede to the Convention and are actively engaged in research or harvesting operations connected with marine life in the area. The Commission will meet annually, and on other occasions when required, and decisions on substantive matters will be taken by consensus. Its headquarters will be in Hobart, Tasmania.

The Convention recognises the prime responsibilities of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties for the protection and preservation of the Antarctic environment and, in particular, their responsibilities in respect of the preservation and conservation of living resources in the region. It also provides that all parties to the Convention will not engage in any activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area contrary to the principles and purposes of that Treaty.

British Views

In a debate in the House of Lords on 21 May (*Hansard* (*HL*), Vol 409, No 133, cols 955-1004), Lord Trefgarne, a Government Whip, said that the Government supported the continuance and development of the Antarctic Treaty system; and wished to see appropriate measures for conservation in the area and to be sure that any exploitation was conducted rationally and with care. It also wished to assist in the recovery of whale stocks. By conservation, he explained, the Government did not mean the abandonment of an area to the forces of nature, so that mankind obtained no benefit. It preferred to follow the definition given in the world conservation strategy prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, that is: 'The management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations, while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.' The Government believed, Lord Trefgarne added, that the Convention was in 'full accord' with these 'eminently sensible and practical objectives'.

Lord Trefgarne welcomed the Convention's links with the Antarctic Treaty, and said that it was only right that states becoming active in the area should accept some of the restraints observed by the Antarctic Treaty powers. He also thought it right that membership of the Commission established under the Convention should be 'relevant', that is, limited to states in the proximity of the area and those actively involved in the matters covered by the Convention.

[For further information see COI reference documents *Conserving the Antarctic's Marine Living Resources*, No 43/Factsel/80, and *International Co-operation in the Antarctic*, Factsel No 808/77.]

General Household Survey

The General Household Survey 1978 shows satisfaction with their housing (to a greater or lesser extent) by more than four-fifths of households in England, Scotland and Wales. There has been a continued decline in the size of the privately rented housing sector and rapid rises in ownership of consumer durables, especially refrigerators and colour televisions. Employment figures reflect the recent trend to earlier retirement and a continuing rise in the number of married women working, particularly in the 18-24 age group. The provision of day care facilities has contributed to this and over the period 1971-78 the proportion of children under five receiving day care or attending school approximately doubled.

The General Household Survey has collected information on a wide range of topics in England, Scotland and Wales since 1971. The 1978 report[1] includes chapters on satisfaction with housing and on drinking habits and information about the association between drinking and general health, and smoking and health.

Size of Households

Despite a continuing increase in the proportion of one-person households and a continuing decline in the proportion of households where the youngest child was aged 0-4, average household size did not fall in 1978 as it had in all previous years of the survey. A marginal increase in the proportion of households of five or more persons in 1978, compared with 1977, and a decline in the proportion of two-person households resulted in an average household size of 2·72 in 1978, compared with 2·71 in 1977. (The differences in average household size in 1976, 1977 and 1978 are within the limits of sampling error, however, and the report notes that there is no evidence on the basis of one year's data of a reversal or halting of the trend towards smaller households.)

Housing

The figures for 1978 tend to confirm the main trends in housing observed over the 1970s. The privately rented sector has continued to decline, from 20 per cent of households in 1971 to 14·1 per cent in 1978. There has been a relatively slow increase in owner occupation (49 per cent of households in 1971 to 52 per cent in 1978). A comparatively slow growth in car ownership (53 per cent in 1971 to 57 per cent in 1978) contrasts with a rapid rise in the proportions of households with particular consumer durables. Ownership of a refrigerator rose from 78 per cent in 1973 to 91 per cent in 1978 while colour television was available to 61 per cent of households in 1978 compared with 44 per cent in 1975.

Among households with a total gross income of less than £1,500 a year (17 per cent of households in 1978, many of them elderly), fewer than half had a washing machine, just over a quarter had a colour television and practically none had a deep freezer or dishwasher. Of the 5 per cent of households with a gross income of more than £10,000 a year, nine out of ten had a washing machine, nine out of ten had a colour television, seven out of ten had a deep freezer, and one in five had a dishwasher.

In 1978, 23 per cent of households were outright owners of their homes. Of these 44 per cent had originally bought their homes with ready cash, 40 per cent had obtained them with mortgages or loans, and 15 per cent by inheritance—half of them from a spouse.

Housing Satisfaction

This section was designed to complement information gathered in the National Dwelling and Housing Survey, conducted in England in 1977-78 (see pp 132-6, 1979).

Just over half (53 per cent) of all households were on the whole very satisfied with their accommodation and a further 33 per cent were fairly satisfied. Some degree of dissatisfaction was expressed by 11 per cent of households, with 4 per cent being very dissatisfied. Levels of satisfaction increased markedly with age. Those living in houses tended to be more satisfied than those living in flats and owner occupiers were more satisfied than those renting. The most frequently voiced reasons for dissatisfaction were poor state of repair or decoration (28 per cent of the 'less-than-very-satisfied' householders) and neighbours or the environment (26 per cent).

Over 70 per cent of householders said that, if they were to consider moving, they would prefer to own their own homes. Nearly 20 per cent said

[1] *General Household Survey 1978.* HMSO, £7. ISBN 0 11 701021 9.

they would prefer to rent from a local authority and only 2 per cent would want to rent privately.

About 80 per cent of householders said that if they moved they would prefer to have a garden—over 90 per cent of young householders and families with children under 16.

Employment

Over the period 1971-78 the proportion of men in the labour force (that is, who were working or unemployed) remained fairly stable among those aged 18-59, but declined among men aged 60 and over, reflecting a recent trend to earlier retirement. Between 1975 and 1978 the proportion of men aged 60-64 who described themselves as retired more than doubled (from 5 per cent to 12 per cent); among those aged 65-69 the proportion of retired men rose from 67 per cent in 1973 to 73 per cent in 1978.

Economic activity[1] among almost all age groups of non-married women has continued to fall. A new analysis shows that between the middle and late 1970s this decline was particularly marked among young single women aged between 16 and 24, reflecting an increasing tendency for young women to stay on at school or enter further education as jobs became harder to find. Among these age groups of single women, as well as among those aged 25-34, the proportions who were not in employment more than doubled between 1974 and 1978. This implies a very marked increase in the number of young unemployed single women in the population because the actual number of single women aged 18-24 increased during the 1970s.

By contrast, among married women aged 18-24 there was an especially marked increase in economic activity (from 46 per cent in 1971 to 60 per cent in 1978). Economic activity rates continued to rise among most other age groups of married women in 1978, though less markedly.

Education

The provision of day care facilities as well as the availability of part-time work have been important factors in the increased participation in the labour force of women with children. Over the period 1971-78 the proportion of children under five receiving day care or attending school approximately doubled (from about 18 per cent to about 38 per cent). By 1978 there was little difference between the proportions of the children of non-manual workers and those of manual workers who were in nursery schools, although the proportion of children attending playgroups continued to be much higher among non-manual workers.

Between 1974 and 1977 women's earnings rose relatively faster than those of men but this narrowing did not continue in 1978. The average earnings of women in full-time employment with a degree or a further education qualification below degree level, corresponded in 1978 to the average earnings of men with CSE (Certificate of Secondary Education), commercial or apprenticeship qualifications.

[1]Economic activity rate is the percentage of a group of the population over the minimum school leaving age who are in the labour force.

Drinking

The survey found marked differences between the drinking habits of men and women. A quarter of men were classified as 'heavy' drinkers and a further sixth as 'moderate' drinkers, whereas only one in 20 women fell into either category. Only one in seven men were either abstainers or occasional drinkers, compared with over a third of women.

Heavy drinkers were more likely to be found among manual than non-manual groups, although the unskilled manual group contained the largest proportions who were total abstainers. In the professional group the most common category was 'frequent light drinking'.

Regional differences were noticeable for men but less so for women. After standardising for age there was a steady increase from south to north of the country in the proportion of men who were heavy drinkers.

Shorter Notes

PRIVATE FINANCE FOR GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

Financial institutions in the private sector have, between February and May this year, entered into arrangements to provide up to £25 million for the Government's factory-building programme in the English assisted areas.[1] This sum is almost equivalent to the Government's normal annual expenditure on the programme. Provision for private sector financing of the programme was included in the Industry Bill (see p 339, 1979), which is now awaiting the Royal Assent, and represents part of the Government's general policy of drawing more funding for industrial development from the private sector and less from public sources. The factory-building programme was begun in the 1930s in order to attract industry to areas of high unemployment and is carried out with government funds by the English Industrial Estates Corporation, a statutory body. The institutions which have agreed to contribute are the Legal and General Assurance Society (£5 million), the National Coal Board (NCB) Pension Fund (up to £15 million) and Barclay's Bank (£5 million). The NCB Pension Fund's investment will be linked with a sum of £5 million from public funds which was announced in the Budget speech (see pp 120 and 134) in a project to develop small industrial units. Other measures to aid the small business sector were announced in November last year (see p 346, 1979) and during the Budget speech (see p 120).

[1]Government factory-building programmes are carried out in other parts of Britain by the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies and by the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce.

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

The governing board of the International Energy Agency (IEA) met at ministerial level on 22 May to review progress achieved since the previous ministerial meeting in December 1979 (see p 28), when oil import limits for 1980 had been agreed, and to take additional action. Britain's representative was the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr David Howell, who made a statement about the meeting to the House of Commons on 3 June (*Hansard*, Vol 985, No 184, written answers, cols 676-8). Mr Howell said that ministers had concentrated on the medium-term and long-term measures needed to reduce the dependence of IEA countries on imported oil and on short-term measures to limit the damaging economic effects of short-term price or volume disruptions in the oil market. They had noted an analysis by the IEA's secretariat of areas where energy policies could be strengthened in individual member countries and agreed that each minister would give weight to this analysis in forming national energy policy. Particular emphasis had been given to 'the role of proper energy pricing policies and the need to develop coal and nuclear power'.

Ministers had agreed that 'results actually achieved by IEA countries as a group for net oil imports should substantially undershoot the existing 1985 group objectives'. The Secretariat had estimated 'the potential undershoot at around 4 million barrels a day' on the objective of 26·2 million barrels a day (including ships' bunkers). Efforts to reduce oil imports would be continued beyond 1985. It was expected that, as a result of these efforts, 'the ratio between the rate of increase of energy consumption and the rate of economic growth for IEA countries as a group over the coming decade should be reduced to about 0·6 and the share of oil in total energy demand to about 40 per cent by 1990' (as against 52 per cent at present).

The ministers had decided on a number of actions to improve the preparedness of IEA countries to deal with short-term disruptions. Mr Howell said that they had agreed that if at any time 'tight market conditions' appeared imminent they would meet at short notice and that IEA countries would take effective short-term action to restrain demand. Ministers would then take a decision on the use of individual oil import ceilings as a means of self-imposed restraint.

IEA countries had also 'reaffirmed their willingness to discuss common problems with the oil-producing countries' and had 'accepted the need for further action by the international community to help developing countries develop their indigenous energy resources'.

Mr Howell said that the Government's view was that effective implementation of the conclusions of the meeting, particularly those relating to pricing policy, was essential to restrain growing demand for oil to a level which could be met from the supplies likely to be available. Implementation would require 'courageous and sometimes unpopular action from all member governments'. The British Government would approach the IEA conclusions in this spirit.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Current methods for the storage and disposal of radioactive waste are satisfactory, according to the first annual report of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee, published on 8 May,[1] although it recommends that the Government and the nuclear power industry should press ahead with research on a range of possible options for conditioning and disposing of high-level and intermediate-level wastes so that safe disposal routes can be established. The Committee was set up in 1978 to advise the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Scotland and Wales on the development and implementation of a comprehensive radioactive waste management policy. It is composed of a majority of independent scientists from a wide variety of disciplines, and also has members from the nuclear power and electricity generating industries and from the appropriate trade unions. It is concerned with radioactive wastes arising from all stages of the fuel cycle and from industrial, research and medical activities, except for defence wastes which remain the direct responsibility of the Secretary of State for Defence. However, the Committee has concentrated its attention so far on wastes from the nuclear fuel cycle, as they are greater in radioactivity and variety than other wastes, and on pressing policy issues which require early decisions.

The report says that current disposal practices for low-level and intermediate-level solid wastes and for liquid and gaseous wastes are generally satisfactory, and 'are based on sound radiological principles and should not give rise to public concern'. The Committee endorses Britain's use of deep-sea disposal, under strict international regulation and supervision, for low-level and intermediate-level wastes and considers that this could be increased. It also considers that 'the general principles governing the management of stored wastes are satisfactory and, notwithstanding occasional incidents, the safety record has been good'. Storage is 'a proper waste management technique and will remain an essential stage prior to the disposal of high-level wastes'. However, the Committee says that storage is not a substitute for disposal and it sees the lack of a developed capacity to dispose of the wide variety of wastes, particularly intermediate-level wastes currently stored, as a gap in Britain's radioactive waste management policy. It believes that 'there is an urgent need to proceed with the identification and development of treatment and disposal options for these wastes'.

According to the report, 'the scale, balance and priorities of the Government's radioactive waste management research programme are generally satisfactory', and it supports the expansion of geological and oceanographic research programmes for the disposal of high-level wastes and research on the conditioning and disposal of intermediate-level wastes. It foresees a need for research expenditure to increase in the next few

[1] *Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee. First Annual Report.* HMSO, £2·75. ISBN 0 11 751479 9.

years. In the Committee's view, a high degree of confidence can be placed in the vitrification of radioactive waste in glass blocks as a method of solidifying highly radioactive liquid wastes for eventual disposal, and 'vitrification is the right process for the United Kingdom to pursue, although progress with research on other techniques which are less well developed should be kept under review'. The Committee endorses the view expressed in the previous Government's White Paper of 1977 (see pp 237-9, 1977) that research into the three main options for disposing of high-level solid waste (see pp 245-6, 1979) – into stable geological formations on land, on the bed of the deep ocean or under the ocean bed – should be pursued at least until their relative merits can be properly assessed.

SAFETY AND POLLUTION AT SEA

Recent developments concerning safety and pollution at sea have included the implementation of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, setting higher standards for the construction and operation of ships, and the ratification by Britain of three international maritime conventions and one protocol which together are expected to make a further important contribution to safety and the prevention of pollution at sea. All the international conventions were adopted under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO), a United Nations body with headquarters in London. Britain has now accepted 39 IMCO conventions and other instruments, more than any other country, and was the first major maritime nation to ratify two of these four latest instruments.

The SOLAS Convention 1974, which came into force on 25 May, establishes revised standards for the construction, equipment and operation of ships. It requires improved fire protection arrangements on new oil tankers, the carriage of up-to-date charts and nautical publications, and more frequent and comprehensive surveys of ships. By the time it came into force the Convention had been ratified by 38 countries (including Britain) with more than 85 per cent of the world's gross tonnage of merchant shipping. Britain is also implementing, in advance of the international entry into force, those provisions of the 1978 Protocol to the SOLAS Convention 1974 requiring all but the smallest oil tankers to be fitted with an inert gas system to minimise the risk of explosion from oil vapours. The provisions will apply to British tankers and to overseas tankers in British ports. Mr Norman Tebbit, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade, described the entry into force of the SOLAS Convention 1974 as 'a major achievement for IMCO'. It strengthened the Government's resolve that Britain 'should continue to play a leading role, nationally and internationally, in the pursuit of safety and pollution prevention at sea'.

Ratification of three international maritime conventions and one protocol was announced by Mr Tebbit in the House of Commons on 22 May (*Hansard*, Vol 985, No 180, written answers, cols 278-9). Mr Tebbit described the ratification as 'a further step forward in the Government's continuing endeavour to improve maritime safety and prevent pollution at sea'. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 (see pp 518-19, 1973) and the related Protocol of 1978 (the two instruments Britain has been the first major maritime nation to ratify) are intended to eliminate intentional operational pollution of the sea by ships as well as helping to prevent accidental pollution. The Convention contains provisions for segregated ballast tanks for new oil tankers over 70,000 deadweight tons and extends control over noxious substances other than oil. Safety standards for the construction and equipment of new fishing vessels of 24 metres (79 feet) and above in length will be set by the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels 1977. The standards will be in line with Britain's rules which already apply to fishing vessels over 12 metres (39 feet) long. The International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979, the first IMCO Convention on this subject, lays down rules for international co-operation on maritime search and rescue incidents. Its provisions have been largely modelled on Britain's organisation and experience, and Britain played a major part in drawing up the Convention.

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Government and Administration

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Vol I. Report. Cmnd 7846. HMSO, £8·50. ISBN 0 10 178460 0.

Vol II. Appendices (mainly research projects). Cmnd 7846-1. HMSO, £12·50. ISBN 0 10 178461 9.

External Affairs and Defence

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 18 December 1979-31 December 1980. The United Kingdom is one of 12 states which have so far signed this United Nations convention which has yet to be ratified by Parliament. Cmnd 7893. HMSO, £1. ISBN 0 10 178930 0.

International Development Association. Sixth Replenishment of IDA Resources. Report of the Executive Directors to the Board of Governors dated 15 January 1980. Cmnd 7900. HMSO, £3. ISBN 0 10 179000 7.

Commonwealth Development Corporation. Report and Records 1979 (see p 185). HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 903799 12 X.

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Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts: 1980. HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 11 512967 7.

Manpower Services Commission: Manpower Review 1980. The review sets out the Commission's plans and programmes and also aims to develop a broader discussion about developments in the labour market and significant issues which may affect employment and unemployment. Available free from the Commission at Selkirk House, 166 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PF.

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service [ACAS] Annual Report 1979. During the year ACAS received 2,667 requests for collective conciliation. This was 20 per cent fewer than the 1978 total of 3,338, due notably to a significant decrease in applications under the Fair Wages Resolution 1946. Settlement or progress towards a settlement was achieved in 1,786 or 78 per cent of the 2,284 cases in which conciliation action was completed (74 per cent in 1978). ACAS received 43,406 cases for individual conciliation in 1979 (44,713 in 1978). Of the 44,399 cases completed, 63 per cent were cleared without reference to a tribunal. Available free from ACAS, Cleveland House, Page Street, London SW1P 4ND.

Health and Safety: Industrial Air Pollution 1978. Annual report of the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate. HMSO, £2·50. ISBN 0 11 883303 0.

Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee. First Annual Report (see p 190). HMSO, £2·75. ISBN 0 11 751479 9.

Criteria Relating to the Approval of Consumer Goods Containing Radioactive Substances: A Consultative Document. This document has been prepared by the National Radiological Protection Board in the light of the Secretary of State for Trade's intention to make regulations requiring goods containing radioactive substances to be approved by the Board. It puts forward the Board's proposals for the detailed interpretation of three fundamental requirements: the benefits must outweigh the harm that might be caused by the associated exposures; any exposures must be reduced to levels which are as low as reasonably achievable; and radiation doses must not exceed certain specified limits. Comments should be sent to the Secretary of the Board, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0RQ, by the end of August 1980. HMSO, £1. ISBN 0 85951 126 X.

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Scottish Transport Group. Annual Report and Accounts 1979. Available from the STG, Carron House, 114-16 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LX. £1. ISBN 0 907181 00 7.

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Patents, Trade Marks and Designs. Annual Report of the Comptroller General. House of Commons Paper 580. The report draws attention to inventive trends in genetic manipulation, environmental safeguards, energy, microprocessors and electronic analogue watches. HMSO, £2·50. ISBN 0 10 258080 4.

Social and Cultural Affairs

General Household Survey 1978 (see p 188). HMSO, £7. ISBN 0 11 701021 9.

People and their Families. Report prepared by the Central Policy Review Staff and the Central Statistical Office. The main purpose of the report is to draw attention to recent patterns of family life and to illustrate the more important trends and developments as a contribution to public discussion about the family and related policies. HMSO, £6·30. ISBN 0 11 630811 7.

Report of the Police Complaints Board 1979. An account of the work of the independent board responsible for dealing with complaints by the public against members of the police forces in England and Wales. HMSO, £2·25. ISBN 0 10 253080 7.

Changing Patterns of Care. Report on Services for the Elderly in Scotland. A report prepared by a planning group set up by the Advisory Council on Social Work and the Scottish Health Service Planning Council to advise on policies relating to the provision of health, social work and related services for the elderly. The Government is expected to publish a White Paper on services for the elderly later this year. HMSO, £4. ISBN 0 11 491642 X.

Hospital Services – The Future Pattern of Hospital Provision in England. A Consultation Paper. The paper recommends that district general hospitals should in future be limited in size, though not in the range of services which they provide, and that many more services should remain in local hospitals. Available free from the Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, London SE1 6BY.

Education, Training and Industrial Performance. Report by the Central Policy Review Staff. The report examines the contribution education and training can make to improving British industrial performance. It points to the rapid changes in technology which Britain is likely to face and argues that it is not possible to plan precisely what skills will be needed in the future. The main recommendation of the report is the importance of flexibility and greater responsiveness to industrial needs. HMSO, £4·25. ISBN 0 11 630817 6.

Gambling Statistics in Great Britain 1968-78. Brings together for the first time statistics on betting, gaming and lotteries in Great Britain. Cmnd 7897. HMSO, £3. ISBN 0 10 178970 X.

Report of the Gaming Board for Great Britain 1979. HMSO, £2·75. ISBN 0 10 256180 X.

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